

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-5, 9-14 and 16-18 have been amended to clarify the invention.

Claims 1-19 are thus pending in the application.

II. Election/Restrictions

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following two groups:

- I. Claims 1-8 and 12-18, drawn to invention I, classified in class 455, subclass 566.1.
- II. Claims 9-11, drawn to invention II, classified in class 455, subclass 566.

The Examiner alleges the inventions are distinct because Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. According to the Examiner, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the video processing apparatus as recited in invention II is a narrow version of the video processing means as recited in invention I. The subcombination has separate utility such as format conversion.

In view of the above amendments to claims 9-11, with claim 9 depending from independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the restriction requirement. Moreover, claims 1-18 are in condition for examination.

Should the Examiner disagree with the above amendments and arguments, Applicants elect Group I (Claims 1-8 and 12-18), for further prosecution in this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Demetra Smith-Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Demetra" being the most prominent.

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